

REMARKS

Applicants certainly appreciate the allowance of claims 6-12 and 14-23. Applicants also appreciate the indication of allowance of claims 3 and 5 if amended to become independent, incorporating the requirements of the parent claims and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 1 to make it allowable rather than amend these dependent claims to make them independent. Applicants have also amended the specification to correct clerical errors.

Applicants previously elected Species 1, claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-12 and 14-23, resulting in claims 4, 8 and 13 being withdrawn. Claims 8 and 13 depend from claims that the examiner has allowed, thus applicants respectfully request that they be reinstated. Claim 4 depends from claim 1, which applicants submit is now allowable. Thus applicants respectfully request that claim 4 be reinstated.

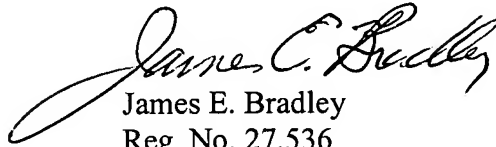
Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the recess on the journal surface is hollow to trap lubricant therein. The recess is illustrated by the numeral 49 in Figure 2, 49' in Figure 5, and 49" in Figure 6. As the cone 23 rotates, some lubricant also rotates with the cone and is trapped in recess 49. Trapping the lubricant reduces or avoids the negative pressure peak 53b illustrated in Figure 3.

In Phelps, recess 21 is filled with hard metal 19 and machined to coincide with the journal surface as explained at column 2, lines 27-28, column 3, lines 60-63 and column 4, lines 43-46. The hard metal 19 serves as part of the journal bearing to reduce wear. Recess 21 is not hollow and could not trap lubricant as required in claim 1. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1, thus applicants submit that they should also be allowed.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees to Baker Hughes Inc. Deposit Account No. 02-0429.

Respectfully submitted,



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